

VZCZCXRO6571
OO RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSB #0295 0991646
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 081646Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2740
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1898
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 2021
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0589
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1298
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1655
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2077
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4508
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1153
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000295

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/08/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT: STILL NO RESULTS

REF: HARARE 278 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

[11](#). (C) The High Court Judge hearing the MDC's application to force the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to announce electoral results ruled today that the matter was "urgent" and began hearing the merits of the case. A decision is expected as early as tomorrow; attorneys for the MDC are not optimistic, given the highly-charged political nature of the case and ZANU-PF's influence over the courts.

[12](#). (SBU) Rumors abound about the delay, although reliable information is hard to come by.

--Some believe the delay in announcing results is due to the fact that Tsvangirai has over 50 percent of the vote and ZANU-PF is attempting to fudge the numbers to require a runoff.

--The Herald reported that five ZEC polling station supervisors were arrested in connection with alleged voter fraud, and there are reports that ZANU-PF is alleging fraud in 16 constituencies and will seek a reelection as opposed to a runoff.

--There are also rumors that Mugabe has taken the position that a runoff would legally be required 21 days from the day of the election rather than the date of the announcement of results, that the ZEC is not prepared for a runoff election, and that he intends to delay the announcement until the 21 days has expired and then announce the date for a runoff.

--We have heard that military units have been deployed to rural areas to distribute food and to prepare voters to vote for ZANU-PF.

[13](#). (C) In a phone conversation April 8, Strive Masiyiwa told the Ambassador that Arthur Mutambara and Welshman Ncube had met with Morgan Tsvangirai and other MDC officials last

weekend and had agreed to a coalition government that would provide the MDC Mutambara faction with government positions and ambassadorships. Mutambara and his people would back Tsvangirai in a runoff election.

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¶4. (C) Masiyiwa also told the Ambassador that at least 25 ZANU-PF parliamentarians-elect were prepared to cross the aisle once the House of Assembly is convened and support the MDC. Under Zimbabwe's Westminster system, they would be expelled from the party and then would presumably stand as MDC candidates in by-elections.

¶5. (U) Harare remains calm and business proceeds as usual, although people are anxiously awaiting election results.

MCGEE